



Town of Abington

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351

Board of Selectmen Meeting

May 12, 2014

6:00 p.m.

Cotter Room

Members present: Ken Coyle, Andy Burbine, Mike Franey, Tom Dion, Maureen Jansen

- Pledge of Allegiance
- A moment of silence was held for Marge Edson aged 88 who recently passed away. Marge delivered Meals on Wheels and was a crossing guard for many years.

Public Announcements:

Chairman announced at on May 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. will be the common core forum held at the Senior Center. On May 23, 2014 there will be a reception at the library signifying the end of the art exhibit. Park and Recreation registrations are available for the camp. May 26, 2014 is Memorial Day with the ceremony kicking off at the arch and the parade to follow with a war memorial dedication at the wall for Danny Vasselian.

Selectman Franey announced that on May 17, 2014 is the child fun run and community partners race at the police station.

Selectman Jansen announced that the School Building Committee meeting will be held on May 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Selectman Dion announced that the Community Gardens at Griffin's Dairy site are plowed. Information for obtaining a plot can be obtained at AbingtonSAGE.com.

6:00 p.m. – John Nuttall, Fire Chief, discussion on the status of the ladder truck – Chief Nuttall stated that they received a FEMA grant in the amount of \$79,000 to replace fire hose. The ladder truck is 26 years old and now is no longer working. Chief states the need for a new ladder truck which could cost in the ballpark of 1.2 million dollars. Selectman Burbine supports the need but only support it as an article at Town Meeting if all the information is available, particularly the cost to bond over a possible 20 year period.

M/Dion to add an article to the warrant to purchase a ladder truck.

S/Franey

Voted 5-0

6:45 p.m. – Stefanie Morgan, transfer of common victualer license, 800 Brockton Avenue, to transfer the license from Doris Constantineau, d/b/a Margots, with Scott Wilkinson named as the Manager

M/Burbine to approve transfer contingent upon payment of property tax that is due

S/Franey

Voted 5-0

6:50 p.m. – Joint Meeting with the Board of Selectmen/Board of Health to determine post closure options in order to evaluate the Corrective Action Alternative Analysis for the Landfill. A consensus was reached on the various post closure options that they would find acceptable/desirable on the landfill site.

1. It was agreed that the most preferred option would be the so-called “no action” option that would not require any further capping. Ideally this would allow for the Town to maintain the existing composting operation rather than find another site in Town for composting.
2. Further, it was agreed that a post closure opportunity that would allow for expansion of the composting operation and/or additional recycling opportunities including a drop-off center for materials that would ideally be eliminated from the waste stream. Examples would include appliances, electronics, metals, Styrofoam, and perhaps even construction debris.
3. Finally, the Town would be interested in exploring a possible renewable energy facility – specifically solar, at the site. The only concern regarding this option is the possible need for importation of contaminated soil for grading/financing, etc. However, all agreed that this was advisable to explore this option. It was also agreed that a post closure option that include recreation facilities was not preferred and should not be pursued at this time.

Action/Discussion items:

1. Approval of April 28, 2014 open session minutes –
M/Burbine to approve minutes
S/Dion
Voted 5-0
2. Vote on Inter-Municipal Agreement between the Town of Abington and Whitman to create a Veterans’ Services District – Town Manager reviewed the spreadsheet detailing the funding between the Town’s and the number of hours available for Veterans services for both Towns.
M/Burbine to approve the Inter-Municipal Agreement between both Town’s
S/Jansen
Voted 5-0

3. Discussion on goals and objectives – It was determined to continue with past practice and have the members meet with the Town Manager to discuss goals and objectives and to place the item on the July agenda. In the meantime, the Town Manager will send over the current status of the goals and objectives.
4. Discussion on a special meeting to discuss warrant articles and FY2015 budget. It was decided to hold an additional meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. for executive session, and discussion on warrant articles and the FY2015 budget.
5. Town Manager Report – Town Manager provided a general update to the Board. (attached)
6. Public Comment – none

M/Dion to adjourn

S/Burbine

Voted 5-0

Meeting adjourned: 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dori R. Jamieson

Assistant Town Manager



Town of Abington

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351

TO: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FROM: TOWN MANAGER
DATE: May 9, 2014
SUBJ: GENERAL UPDATE

The following is meant to be a general update of activities of the Town Manager and staff. Should any member desire more information regarding any particular matter please contact me personally.

1. Financial – I have transmitted my budget recommendation to the Finance Committee and will do so to the Board via email. It has truly been a learning experience this past year and the assistance of the Financial team and particularly the school administration in trying to find an appropriate balance for FY 2015 is very much appreciated. The Finance Committee Chair hopes to conclude this week their deliberations on the budget and the warrant articles that they have not yet voted upon.
2. Veteran's Services – The draft IMA is on the agenda for this week. Should the Boards of both Abington and Whitman vote to implement this we will be advertising for a Director within a week or two. I have had offers of assistance for recruiting from local veterans and I look forward to their participation in finding the right person to make this a successful venture.
3. South Shore Tri-Town – As you may have seen via email there is a meeting this coming Wednesday hosted by Tri-Town to see if there is some opportunity for consensus by the towns and Tri-Town on some legislative changes.
4. Memorial Arch – The contractor that our exhaustive and procurement process produced is now on Board and we held a kick off meeting this past Wednesday morning. Most of the next month will consist of meeting permitting requirements with the Conservation Commission and I should have a projected construction schedule within a couple of weeks. This would be very difficult without the tremendous effort of Doug Ulwick.
5. Peer to Peer project – We also kicked off our discussions with a selection of local business owners on Wednesday to move forward on the Board's goal of trying to make our business districts more aesthetically pleasing and attractive. I was very happy that Andy Burbine was able to attend and I think it is safe to say that we all learned something from the discussion. We certainly need the help of our business community in doing so – particularly if we ultimately seek support for any by-law changes or enforcement measures. BUT, what came out of the meeting was much more interesting with regard to their concerns and the opportunities created by traffic, parking, etc. I am not sure why but even after all these years I am always amazed at what you learn when you actually start asking people questions. Aside from the specific matter that initiated the discussion one of the most important pieces of information that we learned is that there really isn't any active forum for local businesses to interact with the town and each other to deal with collective problems and strategize solutions. The chambers of commerce are regional and, so I am told, that the Abington business council hasn't been very active recently. This is indeed a process and it is nice to finally have it moving.